

CITIZENS' INDEPENDENT TRANSPORTATION TRUST (CITT)

Historical Miami City Hall

3500 Pan American Drive

September 24, 2003

9:00 a.m.

REVISED

Summary of Minutes

CITT MEMBERS PRESENT:

Hon. Mike Abrams, Interim Chair

Hon. John Cosgrove, Interim Vice-Chair

Marc Buoniconti

LtCol Antonio Colmenares

Franklin Kelly

Thamara Labrousse

Luis C. Morse

Henry Lee Givens

Miles Moss

James Reeder

Theodore Wilde

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE:

Robert Cuevas

Bruce Libhaber

COUNTY STAFF:

Carlos Bonzon, Ph.D., PE. Surface Transportation Manager

Bill Johnson, Assistant County Manager

Roosevelt Bradley, MDT Director

Clinton Forbes, MDT

Nestor Toledo, CITT

Patty David, CITT

Alina Philipp, CITT

Hilda Fernandez, Mayor's Office

Patrice Rosemond, CITT

Virginia Diaz, CITT

Pepe Valdes, CITT

ROLL CALL

With a quorum being present Mr. Abrams, Interim Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Abrams welcomed everyone and introduced Franklin Kelly who has been appointed by Commissioner Betty Ferguson, Commission District 1. Mr. Abrams commented that he received a letter from Maria Roberts, Chairperson, Miami-Dade County Commission for Women urging the members to have more women representatives to the CITT. He forwarded the letter to Katherine Fernandez-Rundle, the Chairperson of the CITT Nominating Committee who selects those nominations for each commission district.

Mr. Nestor Toledo, Acting Secretariat stated that currently there are four vacancies in districts 2, 6, 11, and 13. At the last Nominating Committee meeting staff was directed to advertise for applicants volunteering to serve on the CITT not only for those districts but all 13-commission districts.

Mr. Givens suggested asking staff to notify those commissioners with a vacancy to consider appointing a female because a lack of appropriate representation to the CITT.

Mr. Abrams thanked Mayor Manny Diaz for the use of the Commission Chambers, which has recently been renovated.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Mr. Abrams asked Peter Evans, Metro Aqua Cats if you would make a presentation at the Project Review Committee (PRC), which would be more appropriate.

LtCol Colmenares stated that he would add Mr. Evans to the agenda at the next PRC meeting scheduled October 8, 2003.

COUNTY MANAGER'S STAFF ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. Abrams introduced Bill Johnson, Assistant County Manager. Mr. Johnson updated the members on the decision made to consolidate Miami Dade Transit (MDT) and the - Office of Public Transportation Management (OPTM). He distributed and discussed the County Manager's memo "Staff Assignments" dated September 19, 2003. The Manager has promoted Carlos Bonzon, Ph.D., P.E. as the Surface Transportation Manager. Dr. Bonzon is a professional engineer with a distinguished career in Miami Dade County in both transportation and development. He has worked in various departments, such as, Aviation, Building & Zoning, Public Works and Miami Dade Transit. He will be the CITT liaison person for the County Manager and will be responsible for the oversight of the \$17 billion People's Transportation Plan. In addition,

the Manager has assigned Mr. Johnson to oversee the operation, construction and budget of the Performing Arts Center along with other assignments.

Mr. Johnson also distributed and discussed the “Transit Summer Study” and the table of organization that reflects the two consolidated departments. The Manager has appointed Roosevelt Bradley, as the Director MDT, he has worked for Miami Dade County over 24 years and has a great deal of experience in bus passenger transportation, heavy and light rail, and freight transportation systems. Currently, there are 67 OPTM staff positions that will be merged to open MDT positions. The consolidation represents a saving of approximately \$250,000 and 7 to 9 staff positions. In addition, Public Financial Management Consultants have been hired to work in updating the pro forma and once it is completed it will be distributed to the Trust members. Lastly, the Manager is aware that the CITT would like more independence, therefore the CITT will be directly linked to the County Manager’s Office and the CITT will have a Secretariat consisting of 6 or 7 professional staff. This structure is similar to that of the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Dr. Bonzon stated that he looks forward to working with the CITT members in implementing the People’s Transportation Plan (PTP).

LtCol Colmenares clarified that MPO and the CITT are separate and very different bodies. The MPO is a government organization whereas the CITT is a volunteer board that works for the citizens of Miami Dade County.

Mr. Buoniconti noted that the Ordinance states specifically that the County Manager shall provide the CITT with staff, but it does not state that that staff needs to be county employees. The Manager can hire a consulting firm to provide that staff to the CITT.

Mr. Johnson responded that hiring an independent auditor is not a problem, once the Manager approves the contract it needs to be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval. The Manager is sensitive to the Trust’s concerns and is committed to providing the CITT with professional staff.

Robert Cuevas, Assistant County Attorney added that it is the discretion of the Manager to decide whether CITT staff will be county employees or provided by an independent firm. Dr. Bonzon stated that he would address that issue with the Manager regarding the hiring of outside independent staff and will report back to the Trust.

CITIZEN’S REMARKS

Frank Hernandez, Chairman, and CTAC Advisory Committee extend an invitation to the Trust members to attend CTAC meetings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Abrams requested a motion to approve the July 29, 2003 minutes. LtCol Colmenares moved approval, seconded by Mr. Givens and carried without dissent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance Committee Report

Mr. Wilde, Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, distributed a copy of his report. He noted that Mr. Abrams had written a letter to the County Manager stating that as a result of the lack of needed staff and professional consulting support, the CITT was unable to endorse or comment on the proposed budget. The MDT budgetary projections for operating revenues is too optimistic at an expected increase of 24% in transit fares and fees in FY 2003-2004, which will result in a budget shortfall and put pressure on MDT budgeted reserves for "Transfer to Capital Fund" and "Transfer to PTP Special Revenue Fund Carryover". Commissioner Barreiro sponsored a Resolution "Capital Improvement Local Option Gas Tax." The resolution corrects an omission in the sources of revenue to be included in the County maintenance of effort for the PTP according to Ordinance 02-116. It requires the County to provide MDT with at least the same proportionate share of capital improvement local option gas tax revenue. Metrobus and Metrorail boardings since November 5, 2002 have not had a significant increase. Therefore it has been requested by the Manager that the implementation of increased services be reviewed. The committee has received but not made a recommendation on the Professional Service Agreement with Washington Infrastructure Group for Metrorail/Metromover rehab. This contract is to be forwarded to the Project Review Committee for consideration. The Board of County Commissioners has approved the contract.

Mr. Abrams requested a motion to approve the Budget and Finance Report. Mr. Cosgrove moved approval, seconded by LtCol Colmenares and carried without dissent.

Project Review Committee

LtCol Colmenares, Chairman of the Project Review Committee, expressed his appreciation to Danny Alvarez who resigned from his position as Executive Director OPTM and thanked him for his professionalism and leadership for his hard work in the passage of the PTP and working with the CITT. He distributed and discussed the following: Municipality reports, Hialeah and Coral Gables; CITT Secretariat, Staffing Recommendations; Update Bylaws Workshop, and PRC Far Away.

Raul Martinez, Mayor of Hialeah, and Alberto Delgado, Director Public Works Department for Coral Gables, presented to the Project Review Committee a power-point presentation illustrating the projects that have been implemented and are in progress with

the use of surtax proceeds (a copy of the reports were distributed). Mr. Abrams requested that each committee provide a list of staff recommendations that will be submitted to the County Manager for consideration. The list of duties the PRC established was divided into administrative and technical support (distributed).

LtCol Colmenares noted that the City of Miami and the City of Miami Beach have been invited to make a presentation at the next PRC meeting in October. In addition, he has requested a tour of the Miami-Dade Public Works Department and will ask staff to notify the Trust members once that has been scheduled. Site visits will also be scheduled to review the projects for the City of Hialeah and the City of Coral Gables.

Mr. Givens requested that Mr. Alberto Delgado publicly apologize to the CITT and the citizens for an offensive remark he made at the Project Review Committee meeting when he referred to the lower income residents of Coral Gables as “low class” and feels that an apology needs to be made.

Mr. Abrams said he would review the tape and speak to the Mayor of Coral Gables if necessary.

Mr. Buoniconti asked how many municipalities have not signed the Interlocal Agreement. Mr. Abrams responded that staff has advised him that Medley is the only city that has not signed the Interlocal Agreement.

Bylaws Report

LtCol Colmenares, Chairman of the Bylaws Committee, stated that there have been two Bylaws workshops. He encourages everyone to attend the next two workshops scheduled in October and present the final draft to the full CITT in November for approval.

Mr. Abrams requested a motion to approve the Project Review/Bylaws Report. Mr. Cosgrove moved approval, seconded by Mr. Givens and carried without dissent.

External Affairs Report

Mr. Luis Morse, Chairman reported that at the last External Affairs Committee Dennis Vierra, Miami-Dade lobbyist updated the committee via conference call on federal funding for transportation projects. Mr. Vierra will be attending the MPO meeting to discuss federal funding, Mr. Morse suggested to the members to attend the meeting for information purposes. In addition, Virginia Diaz presented the Federal & State Legislative Package (distributed) and the package will be presented to the BCC for approval. Two resolutions were approved by the committee and will be presented at the next CITT meeting for approval. The first resolution is requesting the MPO to issue a re-evaluation of the two studies 1) Palmetto to the Port of Miami and 2) the Turnpike to Miami Beach. The second resolution is requesting MPO to re-evaluate the East/West Corridor segments, which include Palmetto to the Port of Miami and from the Palmetto to the Turnpike in order to comply with the five-year federal criteria standards. All

Interlocal Agreements with the exception of Medley have been submitted. The committee has asked staff to contact each municipality that has not submitted its transportation plans and will report back to the Trust at the next meeting. The website has been updated and all meeting information, such as meeting dates and minutes have been added.

Mr. Buoniconti thanked the staff for creating a very informative website that will be useful to the members and the citizens.

Mr. Abrams requested a motion to approve the External Affairs Report. Mr. Buoniconti moved approval, seconded by Mr. Givens and carried without dissent.

Compliance And Oversight Committee

No Report

ACTION ITEMS

A. Resolution to be approved:

Resolution by the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust Requesting the County Manager seek Board of County Commissioners' approval to Advertise for the Procurement of an Auditing/Accounting Firm independent from the current Miami-Dade County Auditing Firm pool and designate the CITT members as part of the selection committee.

Mr. Cosgrove made a motion to strike "auditing/accounting" and insert "Financial Consulting Services". The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Selection of CITT Chairperson

Mr. Abrams opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Moss nominated John Cosgrove, seconded by Mr. Reeder and carried without dissent.

Mr. Cosgrove thanked the members for their vote of confidence and promises to do the best of his ability.

C. Selection of the CITT Vice-Chairperson

Mr. Cosgrove opened the floor for Vice-Chair. Mr. Abrams nominated Marc Buoniconti, seconded by Mr. Givens and carried without dissent.

Mr. Cosgrove thanked Mr. Abrams for his leadership as the interim chairman. He requested a motion approving a resolution of gratitude. Mr. Buoniconti moved approval and carried without dissent.

Mr. Cosgrove stated that he would like to continue with the same committee assignments, and would like to add the Executive Planning Committee consisting of the vice-chair and all the committee chairs.

CITIZENS' REMARKS

Mr. Buoniconti suggested that a time limited be established to avoid extending the meeting time. Mr. Cosgrove said he would address that issue with the Bylaws committee.

Dan Riker asked the members to speak clearly into their microphones and wished them well.

Noami Wright, CTAC member commented that it would be beneficial to have "citizens' remarks" at the beginning and at the end of the agenda.

NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled CITT meeting is October 29, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. in the County Commission Chambers.

Mr. Cosgrove asked Roosevelt Bradley to make a few comments. Mr. Bradley said he looks forward to working with the Trust. Mr. Givens added that Mr. Bradley has accepted to be Chairman of the United Negro College Fund Campaign and everyone should be proud of his nomination.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

"MINUTES ARE IN SUMMARY FORM"

For a verbatim transcription of this meeting, please request copies of the tape from the CITT at (305) 375-3481